

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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July 29, 2003

**FROM: KEN A. MILLER, DIRECTOR**  
Department of Public Works – Solid Waste Management Division

**SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF UNBUDGETED EQUIPMENT FOR WOOD WASTE DISPOSAL  
OPERATIONS FOR THE BARK BEETLE EMERGENCY**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) Authorize the Solid Waste Management Division to purchase the following unbudgeted fixed assets for wood waste disposal operations related to the Bark Beetle infestation:

<u>Description of used equipment</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Loader	\$100,000
Excavator	\$150,000
Air Compressor	\$ 5,000
Shaker Screen	\$ 30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$285,000</b>

- 2) Authorize the Auditor/Controller Recorder to revise SWMD's FY 2003/04 budget as follows:

<u>Accounting Codes</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Increase/(Decrease)</u>
EAA-SWM-SWM-200-2445	Professional Services	(\$285,000)
EAA-SWM-OPS-440-4045	Heavy Equipment	\$250,000
EAA-SWM-OPS-440-4040	Equipment	\$35,000

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD), in response to the Bark Beetle infestation emergency, is operating two Air Curtain Destructors (incinerators) to burn the wood waste received at a processing site off of State Highway 173 in the Burnt Flats area near Lake Arrowhead. Wood waste brought to the site is incinerated and the remaining ash material is disposed of at the San Timoteo Landfill.

In order to operate the Air Curtain Destructors, a loader and an excavator are needed to load wood waste and unload the ash material. SWMD currently owns one excavator, authorized for purchase in an item presented to the Board of Supervisors on April 8, 2003, which broke down and is in the shop. SWMD is renting a replacement excavator until the owned excavator is repaired. SWMD is also renting a loader. However, due to the volume of wood waste expected from Bark Beetle operations, a second excavator with a log shearing attachment, that will also

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serve as a backup because the site is operating 24 hours per day, is needed as it would be much more cost effective to purchase the loader and excavator. Rental fees for a loader are \$80 per hour and an excavator is \$125 per hour. Assuming only one year of incinerator operations based on the current work load/schedule, the SWMD would expend approximately \$1,300,000 on rental fees for the loader and excavator. At this time it is not anticipated that wood waste disposal operations will be complete at the end of one year.

Approval of Recommendation No. 1 will allow the SWMD to purchase unbudgeted equipment necessary for the operation of the Air Curtain Destructors. At the time the FY 2003/04 budget was adopted, it was not known that this equipment would be needed for the Air Curtain Destructors to be operational. Therefore, approval of Recommendation No. 2 is needed to provide SWMD with sufficient spending authority for the purchases to occur. SWMD will process the purchase of this equipment through the Purchasing Department via the Public Works equipment superintendent. At the conclusion of incinerator operations, or if there is no longer a need for this equipment, the equipment will be disposed through standard county auction contractors and the proceeds deposited with SWMD.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** This item was by reviewed by Purchasing (Zack Avey, Deputy Purchasing Agent) on July 17, 2003. This item was also reviewed by Deputy County Counsel Robert L. Jocks on July 17, 2003 and the County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst) on July 18, 2003.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Funds for this action in the estimated amount of \$285,000 are available in the SWMD's Fiscal Year 2003/2004 Budget through an anticipated savings in services and supplies. This savings is in the form of reduced trucking costs to the San Timeteo Landfill as more wood waste is being incinerated at the Burn Flats facility.

**COST REDUCTION REVIEW:** The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the Department's proposal and recommends this action based on the following: a state of emergency exists in the local mountains due to the existence of more than 99,000 acres of dead, dying, and diseased trees that pose a significant fire threat. Approval of this item will allow for the purchase of equipment that is both cost effective and necessary for the operation of the Air Curtain Destructors to process wood waste in direct response to the emergency created by the Bark Beetle infestation.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S):** All

**PRESENTER:** Peter H. Wulfman, 386-8703

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